

Can an ACCS school
play sports within the
scope of the classical
vision?

Access to printed materials, email
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Character

“The ability to be honest and fair and civil, even when no one else is practicing ethics.” (Stoll & Beller)

Research: Sports do not Build Character

“Perhaps the most disconcerting for educational leaders in Christian athletics (Conrad & Lau, 2010) or those Christian athletes competing at liberal arts colleges (Beller et al., 1996) showed no significant differences in their approaches to competition or moral reasoning levels.”

“Sports do not build character; they dramatically expose character and provide Christian parents and coaches with valuable opportunities to develop character.” David Prince

“Of course, athletics offers pitfalls and temptations. But, what doesn’t? Pride, arrogance, and tempers are always rampant. But someone who is drawn towards these sins will not cure himself by abstaining from sports if he is not willing to address the root of the problem.”

Ben Merkle, Contact Sports, *Credenda Agenda*, Vol. 15, 3

Winning is the Only Thing?

“When winning games is the primary measure of not only success but the intent of your programs you are headed down a road of win-at-all-costs framework and you will be no different from secular schools.” Andrew Parker

Athletic successes even at Christian institutions is measured based on the number of wins enjoyed by the team and accumulated by the coach” (Bell, Johnson, & Peterson, 2009).

C.S. Lewis on Ambition

- Ambition! We must be careful about what we mean by it. If it means the desire to get ahead of other people—which is what I think it does mean—Then it is bad. If it means simply wanting to do a good thing well, then it is good. It isn't wrong for an actor to want to act his part as well as it can possibly be acted. But the wish to have his name in bigger type than the other actors is a bad one." C.S. Lewis

To God
Alone be the
Glory



What is Glory?

Randy Pope says glory is: renown, fame, prosperity, pride, honor, admiration, splendor, or significance.

Better yet:

“Glorifying God is being satisfied with His glory.”

A Christian school
meets strong
opposition not
only with a
competing team,
but in an even
larger opponent in
a worldview
indifferent to
Christianity

“This opposition comes in the form of a worldview that denies the authority of Scripture and is focused almost exclusively on material success whereas a Christian worldview is based on an absolute, immutable, justice-loving God.”

Gaebelein

C.S. Lewis on Glory

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation was that I was made for another world.”

Idolatry

“An idol is anything you love more than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.” Keller

The Practical Cultural Mandate:

It is not the sin we encounter it is how we encounter sin that makes us a Christian school.

“People do not drift toward
holiness.”

James Sire

Interpretive Community

Christians should refer to the creation of an interpretive community that establishes the standards and practices for redeeming culture in the arts and in athletics.

“Christian freedom is meant for every area of life...we should not simplistically declare activities as either ‘sacred or secular’. Our position should be to redeem and restore the distortions that we find.”

W. Romanowski

It is called a game because it
is one

Merkle adds:

- “Pagans can’t conceive of humility and love displayed in the midst of an intensely physical trial. But Christ gives the perfect example. If we want to teach our sons to follow Christ’s example, we must seek ways for our boys to learn this art.”

Bracketed Morality

“Where participants (fans, coaches, players) justified cheating, taunting, gamesmanship, and exploitation of rules to gain an advantage as long as game officials do not call a penalty.”

Bredemeier & Shields (1995)

Gamesmanship

“The art or practice of winning games by questionable means without actually breaking the game’s rules but violating their spirit, or the use of ethically dubious methods to gain an objective.”

Strand, Brotherson, and Tracy (2010)

“If your behavior at a game would make it awkward for you to shift the conversation to your faith in Christ, you are making an idol of sports.”

- Charles Prince

Coach is the Key to Biblical Alignment

“The primary factor in determining if a sports team plays with integrity and good character, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior instead of cheating, taunting, and gamesmanship comes from the individual who coaches them in the sport in which they compete.”

- Strand, Brotherson, and Tracy (2018)

We Must Practice the Principles

“Few things can be more damaging to students and faculty than a gap between the professed principles and the actual practices of those who are in authority over them.”

Gaebelein

There is no Double-standard

- The point of everything is discipleship...The question for everyone should be this: 'How does your program specifically reflect the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in what ways is the program distinctively Christian?'

If the football coach cannot answer that question, it does not matter if he is the winningest ever. And there is no double-standard. The same question goes to the English teacher and the band instructor."

Douglas Wilson

Billy Graham said:

“A football coach will influence more young men in one year than a pastor will in a lifetime.”

Building the Interpretive Community

- Published Athletic Manual (with published goals and expectations)
- Coaching Questions & Application (includes testimony)
- Interview with HoS
- Plan and Lead Parent Meeting at Start of Season
- No Discussion of Playing time with parents
- Coach is the Leader for that Sport and of those parents
- Celebrate the Competition
- Be the CRO for Glory in your sport

Guidelines for Athletics at PCS

- One sport per season
- Cannot quit once the season begins
- No pass No play
- No scholarships- financial aid based on need is the only tuition support
- Gatekeeping-Everyone comes in the front door the same way.
- Each sport supports their coach and their team (PTF approach)
- Our Goal: to host every PCS event on our campus to create a culture that reflects Glory to God.

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